

Information

MOHA-192

Chief, SE

6 June 1952

Chief of Station, Frankfurt

Operational

Zipper Take-over by post German Government

Reference: MOA-5538 and 5731

1. In a meeting with GLOBE on 6 June, I informed him of our apprehension concerning the repercussions that might result with the British and French from a premature executive order establishing Zipper as the future GIS. GLOBE put me on the spot by asking me point-blank why the British and French should object to Zipper. I tried to explain to him that certain opponents to the contractual agreements might seize this opportunity of making Zipper the scapegoat for opposing ratification. When GLOBE did not seem very convinced of this argument, I added that we might expect the British and French to ask the German Government some rather embarrassing questions concerning American financing and control of, as well as influence on, Zipper, none of which either we or the Germans would be willing to answer before ratification. This seemed to sound a little more convincing to GLOBE and he promised to study this problem.

2. GLOBE explained that the Chancellor had no intention of issuing an executive order on the establishment of Zipper as the future GIS prior to ratification, but during the week of 9-14 June, the Chancellor intended to bring this question before a cabinet meeting. When I asked GLOBE if these meetings were secret, he evaded the question by stating that the discussion need not necessarily be included in the protocol. He stressed the fact that certain ministers would have to be officially informed. To this end he would suggest to the Chancellor that after the cabinet meeting, the Ministers of Finance, Interior, BLANKENHORN of the Foreign Office, and possibly Theo BLANK, be acquainted with the fact that Zipper would become the future GIS. GLOBE would not predict whether or not the Chancellor were willing to agree to such a procedure. In any case, there will be no executive order before ratification of the contractual agreements, but we may expect some leakage from one or the other ministries.

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3. GLOBKE is going to Chiemees over the weekend of 7-9 June to inspect a Zipper installation and will also discuss the above problem with UTILITY. In the meantime, GLOBKE thought that preparations and plans for the takeover should be initiated as soon as possible. I suggest that [] come to Bonn, either with or without UTILITY or Wendt, for a detailed discussion with GLOBKE of all pending problems.

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